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Opening extract from

The Loch Mess Monster

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To my husband, Robin, and (at the risk of being tacky) to his novel,
Princes of New York. — H.L.

GLOSSARY of SCOTTISH TERMS
(in order of appearance)

loch	lake
wee laddie	little boy
skirps	drips
puggy-nit	peanut
hummie-doddies	mittens
grottie	dirty
tatties	potatoes
Heeland coo	Highland cow
peelie-wallie	sick

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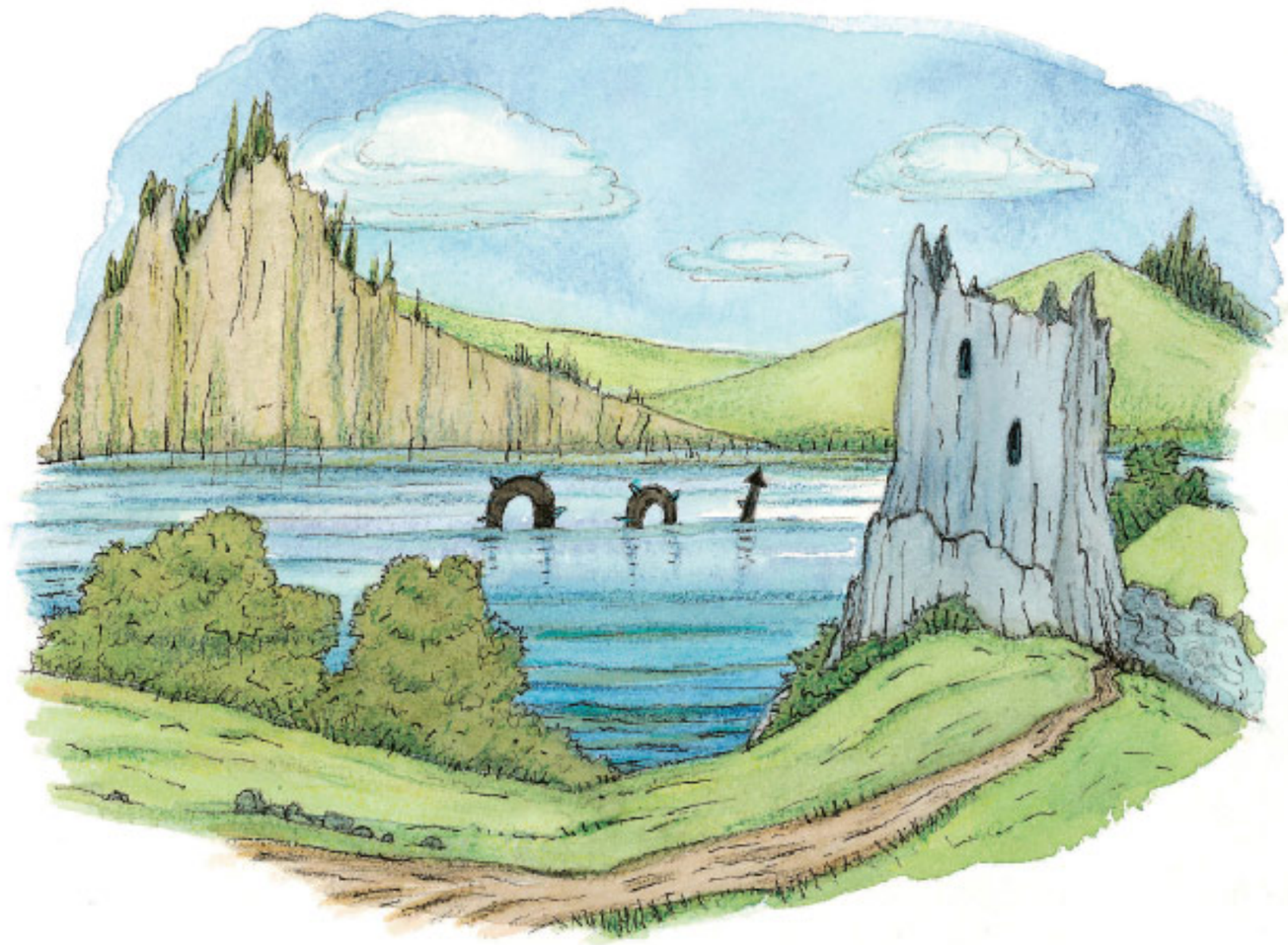
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In faraway Scotland there was a famous lake called Loch Ness.
And legend had it that deep in this lake lived a monster.
No one had ever seen it.

But guess what? The legend was false.

In truth, way, way down at the bottom
of Loch Ness there lived not one . . .

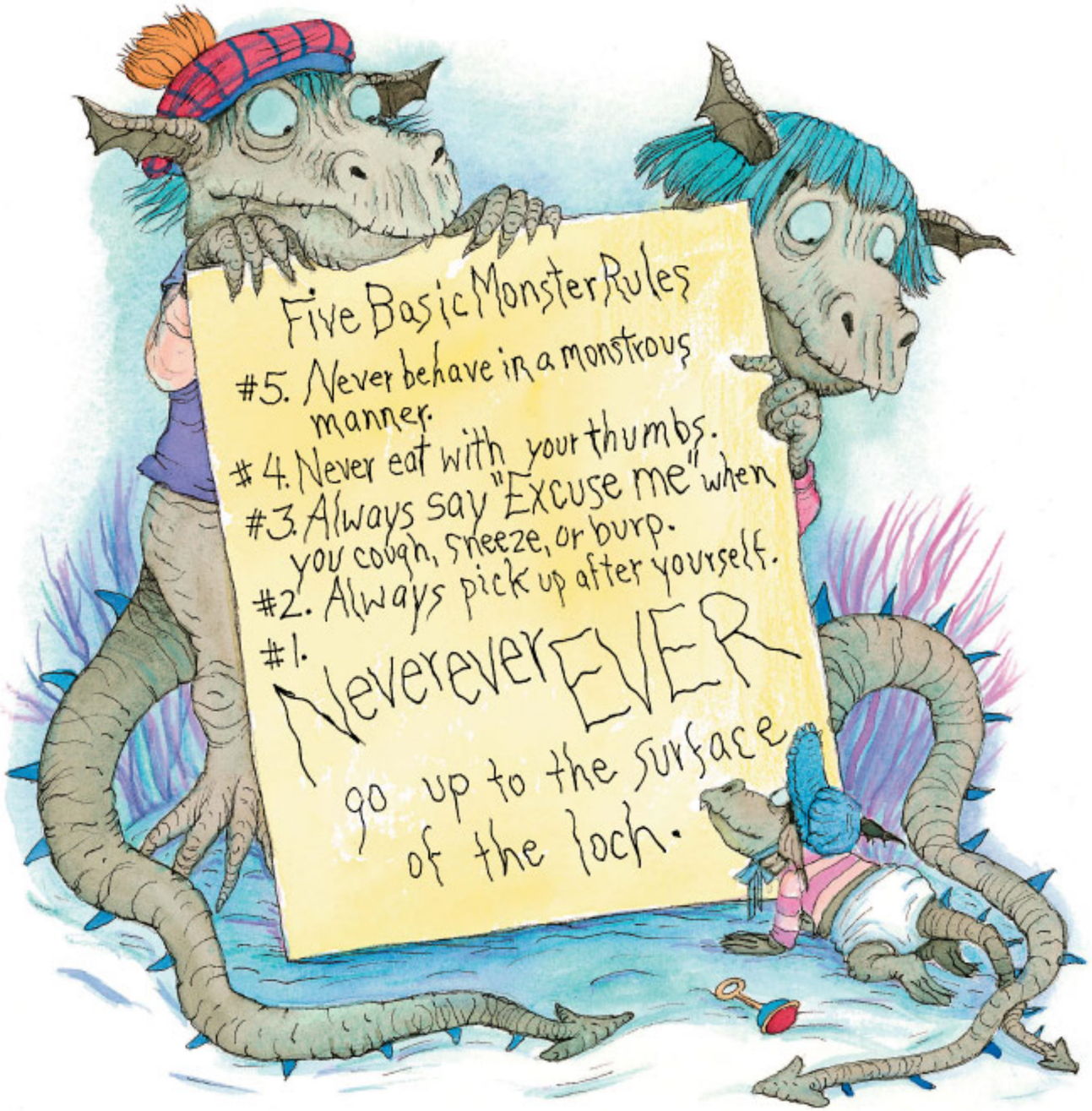
but *three* monsters!

There was Nessie, her husband,
Fergus, and their wee laddie,

Angus.



From the time he was a baby, Angus's parents had taught him the Five Basic Monster Rules.





So Angus was well behaved, ate with a spoon, and said "Excuse me" when he coughed, sneezed, or burped.



But as he grew bigger, so did his messes.